

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 02689 311218Z

43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 SY-04 H-02 FBIE-00

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R 311209Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6295

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

UNCLAS PARIS 02689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CGEN, FR

SUBJECT: LEFTERIA DISASTER

REF: PARIS 3673 FEB. 11, 1974; BORDEAUX 003

1. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. IN VIEW OF LONG DELAY IN COMPLETING INVESTIGATION AND SCHEDULING TRIAL IN LEFTERIA CASE, EMBASSY TOOK MATTER UP WITH DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE ON JANUARY 6, 1975. AIDE MEMOIRE WAS LEFT ASKING FOR STATUS OF INVESTIGATION AND ESTIMATED DATE OF TRIAL.

2. ON JANUARY 27 FOREIGN OFFICE REPLIED BY NOTE QUOTING FROM MEMO FROM FRENCH MARITIME ADMINISTRATION TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT OF MARITIME AND COMMERCIAL TRIBUNAL OF LA ROCHELLE DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO CALL PHILIP BATES (CO-MASTER OF LEFTERIA) AS WITNESS AT TRIAL. MEMO ADDED THAT U.S. CONSUL AT BORDEAUX WAS INFORMED.

3. MEANWHILE, OUR CONSUL GENERAL AT BORDEAUX, AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT OF TRIBUNAL, CABLED BATES AND CONFIRMED HE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TRIAL WHICH NOW SET FOR APRIL L8 AT 0930 A.M. COURT WILL PAY HIS TRAVEL AND EXPENSES. CONSUL GENERAL AT BORDEAUX RECEIVED VARIOUS DOCUMENTS YESTERDAY FROM COURT WHICH HE IS FORWARDING TO BATES FOR SIGNATURE.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 02689 311218Z

4. CIVIL SUIT FILED IN PARIS BY MAITRE JEAN WAROT ON
BEHALF OF SOME OF NEXT OF KIN OF VICTIMS HAS, ACCORDING
TO WAROT, BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING COMPLETION OF
CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN LA ROCHELLE. U.S.
CONSULAR OFFICER FROM BORDEAUX OR PARIS WILL BE PRESENT
AT APRIL 18 TRIAL AT LATTER SITE.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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